

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for revoking a public key certificate, comprising:  
at the time of issuance, a CA requests and receives from an independent revocation  
service provider entity a THV corresponding to an IRV under the sole control of said  
5 revocation service provider;  
embeds such THV into the public key certificate and digitally signs the public key  
certificate with a private key;  
an entity requests revocation from the revocation service provider; and  
the revocation service provider ceases publication of valid PFI updates for the  
10 public key certificate.